

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0046] of the specification as follows:

[0046] In addition to the above exemplary policy actions, the forwarding table may be updated with route information contained in the LSA. This route information may identify a route as either an inclusion route or an exclusion route, as desired. Updating the database 34 may also be based on a policy decision, using any suitable desired attribute (or combination of attributes) of the LSA, as discussed above, such as, for example, the contents of the advertising router field 46 and/or the route tag (i.e. the contents of the external route tag field 60 of Type-5 LSAs 54 or the internal route tag field 66 of Type-3 LSAs 62). Alternatively, an exclusion route flag may be defined and inserted into the LSA by the advertising router. The exclusion route flag may, for example, include a binary "0" or "1", inserted into an unused portion of the options field 40 of the LSA header 36 (see FIG. 2a 3a). As a result, the route identified in the LSA can be marked (e.g. in the forwarding table) as an inclusion or an exclusion route, as appropriate, based on the value of the exclusion route flag. Once the route has been marked as an exclusion route, a router cannot re-set the route, or otherwise override a route policy decision to discard LSA destined for the exclusion route.